

Transcript of the Testimony of

Date: January 17, 2018

Case: THE COMMUNITY MEETING NO. 2 -- FOR THE
PROPOSED REASSIGNMENT BOUNDARY CHANGE OF PATRICK
HENRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HELGE A. HAUGAN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND THEODORE ROOSEVELT HIGH
SCHOOL

THE COMMUNITY MEETING NO. 2 -- FOR THE
PROPOSED REASSIGNMENT BOUNDARY CHANGE OF
PATRICK HENRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HELGE A. HAUGAN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND THEODORE ROOSEVELT
HIGH SCHOOL

January 17, 2018 at 6 o'clock p.m.

Report of Proceedings had at the Hearing
of the Chicago Public Schools on January 17,
2018, at the hour of 6 o'clock p.m., pursuant to
notice, at 4250 North St. Louis Avenue, Chicago,
Illinois.

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

MS. LELA MAJSTOROVIC, Network Chief for
Network 1 and Facilitator

MR. LESLIE KNISKERN, Office of Family and
Community Engagement in Education and
Facilitator

MR. JUAN GUTIERREZ, Principal of Patrick
Henry Elementary School

MS. ROSA VALDEZ, Principal of Haugan
Elementary School

MR. DANIEL KRAMER, Principal of Theodore
Roosevelt High School

06:38:46 DR. ANN ALVARADO, Deputy Chief of Teaching
06:38:49 and Learning

1 06:00:54 MS. MAJSTOROVIC: Welcome,
2 06:00:56 everyone. I just want, before we get started,
3 06:00:58 to let you know if anybody needs sign language
4 06:01:01 interpretation, if you could move up here to the
5 06:01:03 front, we do have an interpreter for sign
6 06:01:05 language.

7 06:01:06 I would like to thank all of you
8 06:01:08 for coming to speak with us today. This meeting
9 06:01:10 is a part of the proposed expansion of Henry and
10 06:01:15 Haugan Elementary Schools to go from K8 to K7
11 06:01:22 and then from K6 to K7 and then also add 8th
12 06:01:26 grade in two years as well as the phase-out of
13 06:01:28 the 7th and 8th grade program currently at
14 06:01:33 Roosevelt High School. This was formally
15 06:01:35 proposed on December 1st, 2017, following months
16 06:01:36 of community engagement leading up to the
17 06:01:39 announcement.

18 06:01:40 My name is Lela Majstorovic, and I
19 06:01:42 am chief of the schools for Network 1 in the
20 06:01:45 Chicago Public Schools. And I am here today
21 06:01:47 with Dr. Ann Alvarado who is the Deputy Chief of
22 06:01:51 Teaching and Learning.

23 06:01:52 We are here today acting on behalf
24 06:01:54 of the CEO, Dr. Janice Jackson, to share some

1 06:01:58 basic information and hear from you about this
2 06:02:03 proposal.

3 06:02:04 As I mentioned a moment ago, the
4 06:02:07 purpose of this meeting is to allow CEO Jackson
5 06:02:10 and the board office to hear feedback from you
6 06:02:13 about this specific proposal under discussion,
7 06:02:16 and I'll start by running through a brief
8 06:02:18 introduction and logistics.

9 06:02:20 Next Dr. Alvarado will run through
10 06:02:23 a brief presentation providing information
11 06:02:25 related to the proposed action, and then after
12 06:02:28 this we will allot the remaining time to public
13 06:02:30 comment. The meeting will end promptly at
14 06:02:33 8:00 p.m.

15 06:02:38 In addition, we have
16 06:02:44 representatives here from the Office of Diverse
17 06:02:50 Learner Support Services, Students in Temporary
18 06:02:52 Living Situations, the Office of Language and
19 06:02:54 Cultural Education, and the Talent Office as
20 06:02:59 well.

21 06:02:59 These representatives will be
22 06:03:02 available for 30 minutes after the conclusion of
23 06:03:05 the community meeting to answer any questions
24 06:03:07 that you may have specific to their areas of

1 06:03:09 expertise. Please note these tables are not
2 06:03:16 formally part of the community hearing, and the
3 06:03:20 stenographer and note-taker will not be present
4 06:03:21 to record comments made at those tables.

5 06:03:27 If you did not have the chance to
6 06:03:29 comment and you do not wish to provide your
7 06:03:32 comments -- if you did not have the chance to
8 06:03:39 comment or do not wish to provide your comments
9 06:03:41 at this meeting, please make sure to e-mail your
10 06:03:44 comments or concerns to the e-mail address
11 06:03:46 transition@cps.edu. You can also submit written
12 06:03:53 comments at the registration tables.

13 06:04:01 (Audio interference.)

14 06:04:01 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're good
15 06:04:03 there.

16 06:04:03 MS. MAJSTOROVIC: I'm going to stay
17 06:04:04 right here.

18 06:04:05 A staff member at the desk will
19 06:04:07 provide a note card for you to provide your
20 06:04:11 written comment if you don't want to e-mail it.

21 06:04:13 For additional information, please
22 06:04:14 also reference the transition plan regarding the
23 06:04:18 school action at cps.edu/transition. In
24 06:04:25 addition, meeting summaries for each community

1 06:04:27 meeting will also be posted and available online
2 06:04:32 at that cps.edu/transitions website within five
3 06:04:38 days of this meeting.

4 06:04:40 So as I stated a little bit
5 06:04:42 earlier, this meeting is part of a broader
6 06:04:45 timeline regarding the proposed action, and as a
7 06:04:47 part of this process, CPS began by publishing
8 06:04:50 draft guidelines for school action on
9 06:04:52 October 1st and then announcing proposed school
10 06:04:54 actions on December 1st. This followed months
11 06:04:57 of community engagement and input, and following
12 06:05:00 this announcement, CPS will host two community
13 06:05:04 meetings and one public hearing to gather
14 06:05:07 additional public feedback. We had one
15 06:05:09 community meeting last week at Haugan Elementary
16 06:05:13 School. This is the second community meeting
17 06:05:16 here tonight at Henry.

18 06:05:17 After the meeting, and clearly we
19 06:05:19 will review all input, and after this CEO
20 06:05:19 Jackson may make a recommendation to the Board
21 06:05:24 of Education to vote on the proposed action.
22 06:05:25 And following a potential recommendation, the
23 06:05:28 board will then vote on whether or not to
24 06:05:31 approve the proposed action at the February

1 06:05:33 board meeting.

2 06:05:35 So I'm going to hand it over now to

3 06:05:38 Dr. Alvarado.

4 06:05:38 DR. ALVARADO: Thank you, Lela.

5 06:05:47 Good evening, everyone. Thanks for

6 06:05:50 coming out this cold evening. I know that many

7 06:05:53 of you are eager to come up and share your

8 06:05:56 thoughts and feedback, and we very much welcome

9 06:05:59 that. As Lela has done an introduction, we are

10 06:06:05 going to do a quick overview of the proposed

11 06:06:07 school action.

12 06:06:08 So we are adjusting -- this one

13 06:06:16 says Haugan, but it's really Haugan and Henry

14 06:06:22 attendance area grades to serve -- to include

15 06:06:24 7th grade for school year 2018, and also we're

16 06:06:28 proposing to adjust Haugan and Henry attendance

17 06:06:32 area grades served to include 8th grade the

18 06:06:35 following school year, which will be 2019 and

19 06:06:40 2020. That would be one grade level each year.

20 06:06:44 We're also proposing to adjust the

21 06:06:47 Roosevelt High School attendance area which is

22 06:06:50 currently serving 7th and -- to 12th grade to

23 06:06:54 serve 8th grade to 12th grade for 2018 and 9th

24 06:07:02 grade from 2019 to 2020.

1 06:07:05 Prior to the school year, the
2 06:07:22 school communities at Henry and Haugan have
3 06:07:25 lobbied to expand their enrollment from pre-K
4 06:07:29 all the way through 6th grade to adding pre-K
5 06:07:33 through 8th grade.

6 06:07:34 These requests were postponed
7 06:07:37 because of space availability. So both schools
8 06:07:40 have experienced overcrowded conditions in the
9 06:07:43 past. Now that enrollment has stabilized, the
10 06:07:47 school communities have continued to voice their
11 06:07:50 support for school expansion.

12 06:07:53 On October 18, 2017, Haugan and
13 06:07:57 Haugan's LSC, with the support of the community
14 06:08:00 at large, requested that Haugan be allowed to
15 06:08:04 offer 7th grade by school year 2018 and 8th
16 06:08:09 grade by 2019.

17 06:08:12 On a similar note, on October 25th,
18 06:08:15 2017, the Henry school community, with the
19 06:08:18 support of the local school council, renewed a
20 06:08:21 request that Henry be allowed to offer 7th grade
21 06:08:24 in school year 2018 and 8th grade in school year
22 06:08:28 2019. Haugan is an attendance area located at
23 06:08:36 4540 North Hamlin that serves K to 6 with a
24 06:08:42 pre-K program. Haugan currently serves 906

1 06:08:42 students.

2 06:08:46 Roosevelt is an attendance area
3 06:08:50 high school at 3436 West Wilson Avenue and
4 06:08:54 serves 7 through 12. Roosevelt High School
5 06:08:57 currently serves a total of 1,099 students, with
6 06:09:00 54 students in grade 8 and 45 students in 7th
7 06:09:05 grade.

8 06:09:05 Henry meanwhile is an attendance
9 06:09:09 area located at 4215 North St. Louis and serves
10 06:09:14 K through 6 with a pre-K program. Henry
11 06:09:18 currently serves 526 students.

12 06:09:20 Roosevelt is an attendance area
13 06:09:23 high school located at 3436 West Wilson, serves
14 06:09:27 7 through 12, and Roosevelt High School
15 06:09:30 currently serves 1,099 with 54 students in grade
16 06:09:34 8 and 45 students in 7th grade.

17 06:09:38 And now I'm going to hand it back
18 06:09:40 to Lela to explain the protocols of public
19 06:09:43 feedback. Thank you.

20 06:09:52 MS. MAJSTOROVIC: All right. So
21 06:09:53 during public participation each speaker that
22 06:09:56 has signed up will have two minutes to come to
23 06:10:00 the microphone up here; we'll place the
24 06:10:04 microphone there, and share their thoughts. You

1 06:10:06 will get a warning at the one-minute mark, when
2 06:10:08 there are 30 seconds remaining and then when the
3 06:10:10 time is up. So there's three times you'll get a
4 06:10:13 warning. A couple of things to remember:

5 06:10:15 Speakers must speak at the
6 06:10:16 microphone. Please do not touch or grab the
7 06:10:20 microphone. Please remember that the purpose of
8 06:10:22 this meeting is to hear from those that are in
9 06:10:24 attendance, and there is both a court reporter
10 06:10:26 capturing every remark, as well as a CPS
11 06:10:29 note-taker. In the interest of time, we will
12 06:10:32 generally not be responding to questions or
13 06:10:34 comments at this meeting. And please remember
14 06:10:36 that the court reporter can only capture the
15 06:10:38 speaker's remarks if there is no additional
16 06:10:41 noise, so please respect each other and each
17 06:10:46 speaker so that their voice can be heard and
18 06:10:49 recorded accurately.

19 06:10:50 The meeting is scheduled to end at
20 06:10:53 8:00 p.m. The comment period will last until
21 06:10:55 the scheduled end time of the meeting, and if
22 06:10:55 there is time remaining after all elected
23 06:10:57 officials, principals and registered speakers
24 06:11:01 have had an opportunity to speak, we will allow

1 06:11:04 principals for -- principals -- participants who
2 06:11:06 have not yet registered to speak. And in order
3 06:11:09 to do so, these speakers and participants must
4 06:11:12 first register at the registration table with
5 06:11:14 the girls, and if time remains after this, we
6 06:11:17 will allow participants who have already spoken
7 06:11:19 to comment again if they so desire. And in
8 06:11:23 order to do that, they must also must reregister
9 06:11:26 at the tables, and then they can come back down
10 06:11:28 to speak.

11 06:11:30 Please remember to start your
12 06:11:31 remarks also with your name and your affiliation
13 06:11:34 with the school so that it can be part of the
14 06:11:37 official record.

15 06:11:38 So to begin the public comment
16 06:11:40 section, I would first like to give city, state
17 06:11:43 and federal elected officials an opportunity to
18 06:11:46 speak, and because we have many participants
19 06:11:49 looking to speak, we are asking elected
20 06:11:51 officials and the administrators to please be
21 06:11:54 mindful of the time they take for comment.

22 06:11:57 I am very happy that we have here
23 06:11:59 Alderman Deb Mell. She would like to have a
24 06:12:01 word.

1 06:12:02 ALDERMAN MELL: So you're telling a
2 06:12:06 politician that they can't speak very long?

3 06:12:09 MS. MAJSTOROVIC: Two minutes.

4 06:12:11 ALDERMAN MELL: Shocking.

5 06:12:13 So I'm one of those politicians
6 06:12:15 that get right to the point.

7 06:12:17 I'm Deb Mell, alderman of the 33rd
8 06:12:21 Ward, which is directly east of here. I'm
9 06:12:23 really glad to be here. Roosevelt High School
10 06:12:25 is in the 33rd Ward, so this has sparked my
11 06:12:30 attention.

12 06:12:30 A couple things. I went to the
13 06:12:31 Haugan meeting last week, and it was very
14 06:12:34 positive for going all the way up to 8th grade.
15 06:12:40 Everyone was very supportive. I really -- I
16 06:12:45 can't stay too long, but I definitely want to
17 06:12:47 hear what you have to say.

18 06:12:49 My big concern is, well, one, our
19 06:12:51 support for our neighborhood school, vital,
20 06:12:55 vital to our students. The more we embrace our
21 06:12:55 high school neighborhood, Roosevelt High School,
22 06:13:02 the Rough Riders, and the more we support our
23 06:13:03 local neighborhood schools is beneficial to
24 06:13:06 everyone.

1 06:13:06 But also, obviously, the teacher
2 06:13:09 positions that are going to be lost over at
3 06:13:12 Roosevelt High School, that is paramount in my
4 06:13:15 attendance here and work with CPS to make sure
5 06:13:17 those teachers either have priority at Henry and
6 06:13:23 Haugan or get placed elsewhere. We would hate
7 06:13:27 to lose them, because I know that they have done
8 06:13:31 great work over there at Roosevelt High School.

9 06:13:33 So, again, I would really like to
10 06:13:36 hear what you have to say, and my office is at
11 06:13:39 Irving Park and Sacramento. If you have any
12 06:13:44 questions or need anything, please don't
13 06:13:45 hesitate to call us and let us know. We also
14 06:13:45 have a Facebook page, and we have a Twitter
15 06:13:49 handle at 33rd Ward. And, anyway, I look
16 06:13:54 forward to hearing what everyone has to say.
17 06:13:56 Thank you.

18 06:14:03 MS. MAJSTOROVIC: Okay. And now
19 06:14:04 I'm going to have the administrators from the
20 06:14:08 three potentially affected schools have an
21 06:14:11 opportunity to speak.

22 06:14:12 So first we have Mr. Juan
23 06:14:15 Gutierrez, the principal of Henry School, have a
24 06:14:22 few words.

1 06:14:22 MR. GUTIERREZ: I'm going to stay
2 06:14:24 away from the mic.

3 06:14:31 Good afternoon. Welcome, everyone.
4 06:14:32 I'm certainly very happy to see friendly faces.

5 06:14:34 We're certainly very excited to
6 06:14:37 have this potential opportunity to expand our
7 06:14:40 grades here at Henry School. I know that since
8 06:14:43 I first got here at Henry School a ton of the
9 06:14:46 main things that parents consistently ask is
10 06:14:46 when we're going to add 7th grade, when we're
11 06:14:52 going to add 8th grade, and so it seems like
12 06:14:53 it's a very long journey, and we are not
13 06:14:56 completely there yet. The opportunity looks
14 06:14:58 like it might happen, but, again, it really
15 06:15:00 depends on the support of the community.

16 06:15:02 So, again, welcome to our school,
17 06:15:04 and I'm looking forward to hearing the comments
18 06:15:06 from everyone.

19 06:15:08 MS. MAJSTOROVIC: Okay. And now
20 06:15:10 we're going to hear from the principal of
21 06:15:12 Roosevelt High School, Dr. Dan Kramer.

22 06:15:17 MR. KRAMER: Hello, everybody.

23 06:15:20 I am here to speak in support of
24 06:15:23 all three schools. I believe the programs that

1 06:15:26 have been put forward by both Haugan and Henry
2 06:15:28 are going to offer some very strong
3 06:15:30 opportunities for the children at these
4 06:15:31 programs, including expanding the 7th and 8th
5 06:15:34 grade.

6 06:15:34 But I also think it's important to
7 06:15:36 note, and I'm going to echo Alderman Mell, we
8 06:15:40 have some exemplary teachers that started the
9 06:15:43 middle school program at Roosevelt. We're
10 06:15:45 extremely proud of the work they have done.
11 06:15:48 We're extremely proud of the work that the
12 06:15:49 children and the families have done. We really
13 06:15:51 want to see the continuing of support for those
14 06:15:54 families.

15 06:15:54 So I want to make very clear that
16 06:15:57 if your son or daughter is currently involved in
17 06:15:59 the 7th or 8th grade program, our priority right
18 06:16:02 now is absolutely the support of those families.
19 06:16:06 As they transition next year, the 8th graders
20 06:16:10 who are currently our 8th graders, are going to
21 06:16:12 high school, many of which will be staying on at
22 06:16:14 Roosevelt. And we're very excited about what we
23 06:16:17 can offer at Roosevelt High School to those
24 06:16:19 families.

1 06:16:19 For the 8th graders that will
2 06:16:22 remain in the phasing out of the program, those
3 06:16:24 students will be very much the focus of our
4 06:16:25 attention. We're going to have those kids
5 06:16:30 exemplary, well prepared for high school. At
6 06:16:32 that point that they are ready to choose a high
7 06:16:34 school, we are excited about the work we are
8 06:16:37 doing in Roosevelt right now. We really agree
9 06:16:37 with bringing in lots of new energy, lots of new
10 06:16:39 programs, and it's going to be a great option
11 06:16:41 for this community.

12 06:16:42 So if there are any families that
13 06:16:44 have any additional questions about students
14 06:16:48 currently enrolled in our program, I'll be here
15 06:16:51 to answer those questions or else feel free to
16 06:16:54 reach out directly to me at Roosevelt. Thank
17 06:16:57 you.

18 06:16:58 MS. MAJSTOROVIC: And our last
19 06:16:59 administrator is Mr. Louis Avila. He's the
20 06:17:02 assistant principal from Haugan Elementary
21 06:17:12 School.

22 06:17:12 MR. AVILA: Good evening, everyone.
23 06:17:15 My name is Luis Avila, assistant principal from
24 06:17:15 Haugan Elementary School.

1 06:17:18 I want to first thank the community
2 06:17:18 members for coming out tonight. Your voice and
3 06:17:21 your opinion is very vital in this
4 06:17:23 decision-making.

5 06:17:25 I'm in support of the bridging of
6 06:17:27 the 7th and 8th grade. It is very vital for the
7 06:17:30 academic and the social/emotional success of our
8 06:17:35 students, especially to create lifelong
9 06:17:37 learners, as well as responsible citizens for
10 06:17:40 our society.

11 06:17:42 From an academic standpoint,
12 06:17:43 speaking on Haugan's behalf, we have begun such
13 06:17:45 hard work. Our students go up to 6th grade, but
14 06:17:49 imagine the possibilities of them being able to
15 06:17:51 expand it academically through 7th and 8th
16 06:17:56 grade. Great possibilities exist, and we can
17 06:17:58 help them get to that bridge where they could go
18 06:18:03 to even greater lengths in the high school
19 06:18:05 level. And from a social/emotional standpoint,
20 06:18:08 you know, it's a critical time in their lives,
21 06:18:10 as they develop into lifelong learners and
22 06:18:13 citizens for our society, that we continue the
23 06:18:16 programs that we started, not just here at
24 06:18:19 Henry, at Roosevelt, but I know they have done

1 06:18:22 wonderful things there as well. We can all work
2 06:18:25 together to ensure that our students are ready
3 06:18:27 for a successful transition into the high school
4 06:18:30 level.

5 06:18:30 I want to thank you all for coming
6 06:18:32 out again tonight and have a wonderful evening.

7 06:18:38 MS. MAJSTOROVIC: Thank you to our
8 06:18:39 official and our school administrators for their
9 06:18:41 comments.

10 06:18:43 We will now begin calling up
11 06:18:44 participants who have registered to speak.
12 06:18:47 Before I call them up, I do want to ask that,
13 06:18:50 and I know it's a little bit awkward, but we're
14 06:18:53 asking that you speak into the microphone to the
15 06:18:55 people up on the stage, and so we'll be putting
16 06:18:58 the microphone up here.

17 06:19:00 I would like Speakers Number 1
18 06:19:03 through 5 to please line up behind this
19 06:19:05 microphone, and we'll continue to call speakers
20 06:19:08 up in advance to allow the most people the
21 06:19:09 opportunity to speak.

22 06:19:11 As a reminder, please start your
23 06:19:14 remarks with your name and your affiliation to
24 06:19:16 the school.

1 06:19:55 MS. SHARYZID BALDOKY (Interpreted):

2 06:19:55 Good evening. My name is Sharyzid. I am the
3 06:19:58 president of the LSC, and I'm sorry I'm going to
4 06:20:01 read off of my notes because I see these others
5 06:20:04 so far have not been reading off of their notes,
6 06:20:07 but I can't remember it all otherwise.

7 06:20:14 First of all, I want you to know
8 06:20:16 that this is a very good school, an excellent
9 06:20:17 school. I love all of the teachers. They are
10 06:20:21 all very well trained. They have very good
11 06:20:43 programs here. They have very good bilingual
12 06:20:47 programs here. It's very safe here, and it's
13 06:20:49 very accessible for all of our parents, and we
14 06:20:52 feel much better not having to look for another
15 06:20:55 school after 6th grade. They can just continue
16 06:20:55 to be here.

17 06:21:02 And I just also want to close by
18 06:21:14 saying that I have a daughter. She has autism,
19 06:21:17 and they have done such a good job with her. I
20 06:21:19 really wish that -- who knows where she would be
21 06:21:21 if she had gotten in here earlier, but I'm
22 06:21:23 really excited for her to be able to continue
23 06:21:23 here in 7th grade and 8th grade; who knows,
24 06:21:24 maybe through high school here.

1 06:21:25 MR. KNISKERN: Speaker Number 2.

2 06:21:42 MR. STEVE LIVINGSTON: My name is
3 06:21:42 Steve Livingston. I'm a retired teacher. I
4 06:21:46 live in the community. I'm going to read this
5 06:21:47 because public speaking isn't my forte.

6 06:21:49 I have some serious reservations
7 06:21:52 about this because it's part of a general
8 06:21:56 pattern.

9 06:21:56 The proposed closure of the 7th and
10 06:21:58 8th grade academic program at Roosevelt appears
11 06:22:01 to fit in with developments in the real estate
12 06:22:05 picture unfolding in Albany Park. Properties
13 06:22:08 are being upgraded, rents greatly increased, and
14 06:22:12 rental units being converted to condos. Working
15 06:22:14 class families are being forced to relocate out
16 06:22:18 of the neighborhood. This isn't entirely
17 06:22:21 excepted from the Trump deportation program
18 06:22:21 either.

19 06:22:21 Shifting working class kids from
20 06:22:23 Roosevelt to Henry and Haugan will ensure that
21 06:22:26 they will be less likely to attend Roosevelt
22 06:22:29 High School. This then will work toward the
23 06:22:33 shrinkage of the Roosevelt student body, which
24 06:22:35 given funding based on student-based budgeting,

1 06:22:39 will mean fewer resources from Chicago Public
2 06:22:41 Schools for the remaining students at Roosevelt.

3 06:22:45 Parents will then be further
4 06:22:47 encouraged to leave the neighborhood as the
5 06:22:48 neighborhood declines, achieving the result
6 06:22:52 desired by the real estate interests and their
7 06:22:55 backers in City Hall, a well-heeled class of
8 06:22:57 residents and a wealthier tax base, which is
9 06:23:00 what they desire.

10 06:23:01 The process right now is taking
11 06:23:03 place like this at a much more advanced stage in
12 06:23:05 Englewood where four high schools are being shut
13 06:23:09 down without a new neighborhood open enrollment
14 06:23:09 school for the current students there.

15 06:23:15 It's up to us to stop this process
16 06:23:16 from going forward here, and throughout Chicago
17 06:23:17 we must maintain the academic 7th and 8th grade
18 06:23:21 at Roosevelt. Thank you very much.

19 06:23:28 MR. KNISKERN: Speaker Number 4.

20 06:23:30 MS. CLARA VELAZQUEZ: Good evening.

21 06:23:57 My name is Clara Velazquez, and I am the mother
22 06:23:59 of three children here, and I have my daughter,
23 06:24:02 she's here in 6th grade. I'd really like for
24 06:24:05 them to do this so that she can continue here.

1 06:24:13 She likes it here. She's had really good
2 06:24:16 teachers here. She has her friends here.
3 06:24:18 Everything is good, and I'd really like her to
4 06:24:20 be able to stay here. That's it.

5 06:24:25 MR. KNISKERN: Does anyone have
6 06:24:27 Speaker Number 2? Did we miss you, Speaker
7 06:24:31 Number 2?

8 06:24:31 Speaker Number 5. Let's line up,
9 06:24:35 numbers 5 through 10, 5 through 10.

10 06:24:47 MR. NEAL RESNIKOFF: My name is
11 06:24:50 Neal Resnikoff. I'm with the Albany Park,
12 06:24:55 North Park, Mayfair Neighbors For Peace and
13 06:24:58 Justice, and I want to point out that nationally
14 06:25:04 and in Chicago there has been a big effort to
15 06:25:09 stop public education and to turn the public
16 06:25:14 schools over to private profit-making
17 06:25:20 enterprises, and to empty out Roosevelt High
18 06:25:27 School under any excuse is a likely path that
19 06:25:33 follows a pattern of emptying out schools and
20 06:25:38 closing schools, public schools, neighborhood
21 06:25:43 schools, and then turning them over to private
22 06:25:54 corporations that do not have local school
23 06:25:56 councils, that are interested in making money,
24 06:26:00 profits off of the students.

1 06:26:04 We should oppose in any way
2 06:26:07 emptying out Roosevelt High School rather than
3 06:26:10 building it up and making it even more of a
4 06:26:13 public and neighborhood school than it is now.
5 06:26:18 So I oppose this proposal. Thank you.

6 06:26:26 (Applause.)

7 06:26:34 STUDENT JUSTIN QUINTERO: Good
8 06:26:34 evening.

9 06:26:35 My name is Justin, and I am a 6th
10 06:26:37 grade student at Henry School. We need 7th
11 06:26:39 grade because I believe it will be difficult for
12 06:26:42 students to feel like they belong in a new
13 06:26:45 school environment, and it could possibly lead
14 06:26:48 to anxiety and some forms of bullying.

15 06:26:50 Other reasons to have 7th grade is
16 06:26:54 the neighborhood where I live in. We don't have
17 06:26:57 to travel far. Students are accustomed to
18 06:27:01 Henry's schedule, and it would take a while for
19 06:27:05 students to adjust to a new schedule.

20 06:27:07 Also families leave Henry School so
21 06:27:09 family members can be at the same school. Henry
22 06:27:13 School is like a family, and I would like to
23 06:27:15 stay for 7th and 8th grade. Thank you for
24 06:27:17 listening.

1 06:27:18 (Applause.)

2 06:27:24 MR. KNISKERN: Would anyone care to

3 06:27:26 follow that?

4 06:27:26 (Laughter.)

5 06:27:26 MR. KNISKERN: Speaker Number 7, 8,

6 06:27:30 9, 10.

7 06:27:39 STUDENT YAHIR RAMOS: Hello.

8 06:27:39 I am Yahir Ramos, and I would like

9 06:27:44 7th grade because the school's comfortable, it's

10 06:27:47 safe, the teachers are good teachers, and I

11 06:27:52 don't want to leave because -- nothing else.

12 06:28:01 (Applause.)

13 06:28:07 MR. KNISKERN: Do we have any other

14 06:28:09 speaker cards? Speaker 9, 10?

15 06:28:16 STUDENT AINSLEY BALDOKY: Hello.

16 06:28:18 My name is Ainsley. I want to have 7th grade

17 06:28:22 because it could -- the teacher helps us a lot,

18 06:28:26 and we learn, and for the parents to not be

19 06:28:30 traveling looking for different schools.

20 06:28:35 (Applause.)

21 06:28:42 MR. KNISKERN: Any other speakers?

22 06:28:45 Eleven through 15? Anyone have any other

23 06:28:48 speaker cards, 11 through 15?

24 06:29:06 MR. TOMAS RAMOS: Hello.

1 06:29:07 My name is Thomas Ramos, and I want
2 06:29:09 to add 7th grade here because it would be better
3 06:29:13 for us as families because it's very close to
4 06:29:15 us, and we don't have to battle as much because
5 06:29:25 we're already close. I think that this school
6 06:29:33 is very good, and these teachers, they're really
7 06:29:36 good with the kids. That's all I have to say.

8 06:29:39 (Applause.)

9 06:29:42 MR. KNISKERN: If Speakers 16
10 06:29:44 through 20 could line up here, please, 16
11 06:29:47 through 20.

12 06:29:49 MS. LOURDES BENITEZ: Good evening.
13 06:29:49 My name is Lourdes Benitez, and I'm a parent
14 06:29:52 here at Henry. I have a third grader and a
15 06:29:55 first grader, and we're new to the school. We
16 06:29:57 moved back from the suburbs into the city this
17 06:29:59 summer, and I had a couple of choices as to
18 06:30:02 where to send my girls, and when I was looking
19 06:30:04 at the schools, one of the disadvantages that I
20 06:30:06 found with Patrick Henry was that they did not
21 06:30:09 have a 7th and 8th grade.

22 06:30:11 I decided to take a gamble anyway,
23 06:30:14 and I am very glad that we did. We showed up
24 06:30:17 for Parents Day in September, and it was a

1 06:30:19 wonderful experience. You could feel the
2 06:30:22 positive energy with all the teachers. They
3 06:30:25 have a personalized learning technique that they
4 06:30:28 started that my daughter, who had been
5 06:30:29 struggling in her previous school, has now
6 06:30:32 blossomed. She's on track to be on the honor
7 06:30:36 roll for this quarter, which is excellent.

8 06:30:38 My first grader is struggling with
9 06:30:38 reading, but the teacher, Miss Prasko, has been
10 06:30:42 wonderful to help me get her along so that she
11 06:30:45 improves her testing scores. They've done
12 06:30:48 workshops for parents to help them so we can
13 06:30:48 help our students do better in testing, so it's
14 06:30:52 just a wonderful staff and wonderful school.

15 06:30:56 I do hear about Roosevelt and what,
16 06:30:58 you know, the loss there of the 7th and 8th
17 06:31:01 grade. I can understand that because the city,
18 06:31:03 it's not a norm to have middle school. The
19 06:31:05 students here are at a disadvantage. My
20 06:31:07 daughter at 6th grade would not be at a place
21 06:31:09 where I think mature-wise she would know how to
22 06:31:13 test to get into a different school.

23 06:31:15 If you look at the numbers,
24 06:31:16 Roosevelt is only getting about half of the

1 06:31:18 students from Henry and Haugan, so they're going
2 06:31:21 somewhere else. It would be great if they stay
3 06:31:24 in their schools. Thank you.

4 06:31:26 (Applause.)

5 06:31:30 MS. LISA CANTU: Good evening. I'm
6 06:31:33 Lisa Cantu. I'm a teacher here at Henry, and I
7 06:31:37 am very excited about the opportunity for our
8 06:31:40 students to stay here for next year 7th and then
9 06:31:44 following 8th grade. Henry is a personalized
10 06:31:47 learning school, and we have invested a lot of
11 06:31:50 time in helping our students become
12 06:31:56 individualized learners and developing
13 06:31:58 themselves into more responsible and motivated
14 06:32:01 learners.

15 06:32:02 To see our students graduate from
16 06:32:05 Henry would be awesomely exciting since I've
17 06:32:09 been here for 25 years, and I've never seen one.
18 06:32:12 So I'm definitely in favor for Henry to get 7th
19 06:32:16 and then their 8th grade. Thank you.

20 06:32:19 (Applause.)

21 06:32:29 STUDENT DERREK GOMEZ: My name is
22 06:32:30 Derek. I am a 6th grader here at Henry. The
23 06:32:33 reason why we should have to have 7th and 8th
24 06:32:36 grade student grades here is because my little

1 06:32:40 sister is a first grader here, and I want to see
2 06:32:43 her grow up, and I want to stay at the same
3 06:32:46 school with her as long as I can as possible,
4 06:32:48 and I want to see her grow up and graduate from
5 06:32:51 Henry as well as I can.

6 06:32:54 And Henry is like a second -- a
7 06:32:58 third home to me because I made new friends.
8 06:33:02 I've fixed old relationships with my friends. I
9 06:33:06 have teachers that I feel comfortable talking
10 06:33:08 to. It's easier than having to come home by
11 06:33:11 myself or with my grandma and my sister, and I
12 06:33:16 can easily get my sister every day with no
13 06:33:19 problem.

14 06:33:20 (Applause.)

15 06:33:30 STUDENT MICHELLE VELAZQUEZ: Hi.
16 06:33:30 My name is Michelle, and I want 7th grade
17 06:33:32 because -- to make the school better and for
18 06:33:41 more testing and for the people to get better at
19 06:33:44 it. Thank you.

20 06:33:46 (Applause.)

21 06:33:53 MR. KNISKERN: Speakers 20 through
22 06:33:56 26; more speakers 20 through 26.

23 06:34:07 MS. KATHERINE PRASKO HOLOD: Okay.
24 06:34:07 Good evening, everyone.

1 06:34:08 My name is Katherine Prasko Holod.

2 06:34:11 I want to start off by saying that I am a
3 06:34:13 product of Chicago Public Schools. I went to
4 06:34:16 Volta. I worked with 7th and 8th grade. The
5 06:34:22 whole school, I loved the programs that were
6 06:34:23 there. I also attended Roosevelt High School,
7 06:34:26 so I'm very happy to be able to be part of the
8 06:34:29 Henry community.

9 06:34:31 I've been here -- this is my 24th
10 06:34:33 year teaching, so I feel very comfortable, and I
11 06:34:37 love the school and the changes that are
12 06:34:39 happening. They are for the children. We
13 06:34:42 developed very good social/emotional skills by
14 06:34:47 having 7th and 8th grade develop relationships.
15 06:34:52 It's not just about the kids. It's about the
16 06:34:56 grown-ups in partnership, and all of this
17 06:34:58 benefits all types of learners, kids and adults,
18 06:35:02 because we are those same kids that grow up with
19 06:35:05 those same learning styles that are being
20 06:35:07 addressed today in the workplace. Okay.

21 06:35:11 The other thing I would like to say
22 06:35:14 is that 7th and 8th graders will have more
23 06:35:17 leadership opportunities. It will benefit the
24 06:35:19 schools being role models for primary, and as

1 06:35:22 you can see the back of my shirt, it's got our
2 06:35:25 new school motto we have had for several years,
3 06:35:28 "Everything is possible. Nothing is
4 06:35:30 unimaginable. Let's do it. Go Henry." Thank
5 06:35:33 you.

6 06:35:34 (Applause.)

7 06:35:37 STUDENT JULISSA BUCIO: Good
8 06:35:37 evening.

9 06:35:38 My name is Julissa, and I am a 6th
10 06:35:40 grader at Patrick Henry. I've been here since
11 06:35:44 kindergarten. I would like to stay here for 7th
12 06:35:45 and 8th grade because I've built relationships
13 06:35:47 with other students and teachers. If I would go
14 06:35:50 to another school, I wouldn't have the same
15 06:35:51 opportunities like being in the science fair and
16 06:35:54 being student council. Patrick Henry taught me
17 06:35:56 independent, personalized learning. Patrick
18 06:35:58 Henry is like a second home for me.

19 06:36:01 (Applause.)

20 06:36:06 STUDENT STEPHANIE LERENA: Hello.
21 06:36:07 My name is Stephanie. I'm a 6th grade student
22 06:36:10 here at Patrick Henry. I've been in Patrick
23 06:36:14 Henry for eight years. This place is my second
24 06:36:17 home, and I really would love to stay here.

1 06:36:19 I've built up many strong bonds, and I would
2 06:36:25 hate to end it here. I made many memories too.

3 06:36:28 Patrick Henry has shown me
4 06:36:30 independence by personalized learning. I get to
5 06:36:33 make my own calendar for the week and choose
6 06:36:36 what subjects I would like to work on, and I
7 06:36:39 would really love to have 7th and 8th grade
8 06:36:44 here.

9 06:36:44 (Applause.)

10 06:36:46 MR. KNISKERN: Speakers Number 27
11 06:36:50 through 36; 27 through 36, please line up.

12 06:37:08 STUDENT BREANNA FRANANI: Good
13 06:37:08 evening. My name is Breanna, and I am a 6th
14 06:37:11 grader here at Patrick Henry. This is my first
15 06:37:14 year as a student here.

16 06:37:16 Teachers at Henry push us to make
17 06:37:18 improvements on our Summit personalized
18 06:37:24 learning, and I feel safe here at Henry and
19 06:37:27 welcomed by teachers and friends. I want our
20 06:37:31 6th graders to be good role models for future
21 06:37:36 grades.

22 06:37:37 (Applause.)

23 06:37:37 STUDENT JASURY EVELYN: Hi.

24 06:37:44 My name is Jasury Evelyn, and I'm a

1 06:37:46 6th grader at Patrick Henry. I've been at
2 06:37:50 Patrick Henry for six years. This is like a
3 06:37:52 second home to me, and I would really like to
4 06:37:55 stay at Patrick because we grew up here and I
5 06:37:57 love this place.

6 06:37:58 I feel like if I went to Roosevelt,
7 06:38:00 if I went to a high school setting, I would get
8 06:38:04 distracted by bad behavior. Patrick Henry
9 06:38:05 showed me how to be independent through PLT, and
10 06:38:08 this school is full of memories, and I would be
11 06:38:11 disappointed if we didn't get this opportunity.
12 06:38:14 Thank you.

13 06:38:15 (Applause.)

14 06:38:18 STUDENTS YOLANDA PALACIOS and
15 06:38:23 ASHLEY VELAZQUEZ: Good evening.

16 06:38:24 Our names are Yolanda and Ashley.
17 06:38:27 We are students that go to Patrick Henry. We
18 06:38:31 would like to have 7th and 8th grade because we
19 06:38:33 would like to learn and stay for our sisters or
20 06:38:36 brothers to grow up and stay in this school
21 06:38:39 instead of going to another school.

22 06:38:41 (Applause.)

23 06:38:45 STUDENT EMILY AYALA: My name is
24 06:38:47 Emily. I'm a student here in 5th grade. I want

1 06:38:49 7th and 8th grade to finish elementary school.

2 06:38:54 Thank you.

3 06:38:55 (Applause.)

4 06:38:55 MARIA (Interpreted): Hi. Good
5 06:39:05 evening.

6 06:39:05 My name is Maria, and I have two
7 06:39:09 daughters here. They say that to dream is
8 06:39:26 possible, and we've been dreaming for a long
9 06:39:29 time to have 7th and 8th grade here, and I am
10 06:39:32 one of the persons who is very happy for this
11 06:39:34 possibility.

12 06:39:34 (Applause.)

13 06:39:44 MARIA (Continuing): I know this is
14 06:39:45 going to be a big challenge for the school, but
15 06:39:47 I do believe in the teachers, I do believe in
16 06:39:50 the staff of this school, and I think this is
17 06:39:52 going to be a great thing for the school.

18 06:39:55 (Applause.)

19 06:39:56 MR. KNISKERN: If Speakers Number
20 06:39:57 37 through 44 could line up, please, 37 through
21 06:40:02 44.

22 06:40:12 MS. LUCY MARCHÁN: Good evening.
23 06:40:13 My name is Lucy Marchán. I have four kids. I'm
24 06:40:17 not going to say their age because I'm never

1 06:40:17 going to end.

2 06:40:19 First of all, I would like to thank
3 06:40:21 all of you for being here; the teachers, the
4 06:40:23 parents and all the community. For a long time
5 06:40:26 we've been wanting 7th and 8th grade. We've
6 06:40:29 fought for this. I too was an LSC president for
7 06:40:33 six years. We fought to -- you know, nobody --
8 06:40:36 we noticed nobody listened.

9 06:40:39 At this point there's this
10 06:40:40 possibility. They tell us, you know, we might,
11 06:40:43 we might. So we're all here. This is our Henry
12 06:40:47 family. We're here to ask you, to beg for you,
13 06:40:50 give us 7th and 8th grade. Look it, we're
14 06:40:54 ranking plus one. Excuse me. Our grades speak
15 06:41:00 for ourselves. The principal and the teachers,
16 06:41:03 they're a team, which make it so easy for the
17 06:41:06 students to want to be here to learn and to
18 06:41:08 better themselves.

19 06:41:11 Every day I question myself, if my
20 06:41:13 kids wouldn't have gone to another school for
21 06:41:15 7th and 8th, they would have gone so much
22 06:41:20 beyond -- one minute.

23 06:41:21 Thank you so much for your time,
24 06:41:22 and thank you very much for being here.

1 06:41:24 (Applause.)

2 06:41:24 STUDENT AMANDA MARCHÁN: Hi.

3 06:41:28 My name is Amanda Marchán. I was a
4 06:41:30 former student from Patrick Henry. And in all
5 06:41:34 honesty, Patrick Henry has made me grow as an
6 06:41:37 individual. As soon as, like, I felt the 6th
7 06:41:40 grade coming, like, I knew that there wasn't
8 06:41:42 going to be 7th or 8th grade, and, of course, I
9 06:41:45 was upset, but then, like, I'm, like, why isn't
10 06:41:49 there -- there's supposed to be 7th and 8th
11 06:41:52 because this school is like a family.

12 06:41:55 It was an amazing opportunity to
13 06:41:57 come here and to grow with all these teachers
14 06:41:59 who made me feel at home. I was a bilingual
15 06:42:04 student, and still the teachers, like, stayed
16 06:42:06 with me, like, after school when I needed them
17 06:42:08 to. They were there for me when I needed extra
18 06:42:12 help or a push. If they saw me falling behind,
19 06:42:15 they're like, "come on. You got this," and I
20 06:42:17 never felt that experience again because it
21 06:42:21 wasn't the same school.

22 06:42:22 Middle school is, like, it just
23 06:42:25 wasn't the same, but due to the school, like, it
24 06:42:28 helped me grow, and now I'm a student, a Vaughn

1 06:42:32 student. I took the enrollment test because
2 06:42:34 this school has showed me how, like, great it is
3 06:42:38 to learn, and it was just amazing. Yes. Thank
4 06:42:41 you.

5 06:42:42 (Applause.)

6 06:42:50 STUDENT JULIA RODRIGUEZ: Good
7 06:42:51 evening.

8 06:42:51 My name is Julia. I'm a student
9 06:42:54 from Patrick Henry. I would like that Patrick
10 06:42:59 Henry would have 7th grade because it's a
11 06:43:01 wonderful school, and it has many fun things and
12 06:43:08 activities that we can do. Also, Patrick Henry
13 06:43:10 is a safe school. We also get to have an
14 06:43:15 afterschool program where other schools don't
15 06:43:17 have that opportunity where -- that's all.

16 06:43:31 MR. KNISKERN: That's all?

17 06:43:32 STUDENT JULIA RODRIGUEZ: Yeah.

18 06:43:35 (Applause.)

19 06:43:38 MR. KNISKERN: Are there any other
20 06:43:39 registered speakers? Any other registered
21 06:43:46 speakers? Is there anyone who would like to
22 06:43:56 register to speak again?

23 06:44:02 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We could
24 06:44:03 speak again?

1 06:44:04 MR. KNISKERN: If you would like,
2 06:44:06 you may reregister and speak again if there are
3 06:44:09 no other speakers.

4 06:44:11 I need to ask you to register at
5 06:44:14 the back desk and bring me your card.

6 06:45:19 STUDENT YOLANDA PALACIOS: Hello.
7 06:45:19 My name is Yolanda.

8 06:45:20 I am a 6th grader here in Patrick
9 06:45:22 Henry. I would like 7th and 8th grade here
10 06:45:26 because in this school, since preschool I
11 06:45:30 started crying, but when I met these group of
12 06:45:34 friends that helped me through a lot of issues
13 06:45:37 that I had in my life, and each year, each grade
14 06:45:41 that I had here at Patrick Henry, I had a whole
15 06:45:47 lot of friends, even little kids through big
16 06:45:52 kids. I had a special bond with two of my best
17 06:45:57 friends, and they really helped me with school
18 06:46:02 and outside of school. And after school it's
19 06:46:09 like I went to find some new friends, but
20 06:46:14 actually, I wanted to learn, so I met this
21 06:46:20 teacher, Miss Rodriguez, that helped me do this,
22 06:46:27 like, dance. She taught me a lot of stuff, and
23 06:46:32 that's all.

24 06:46:34 (Applause.)

1 06:46:34 MS. KAYLA JAFFE: Hi.

2 06:46:42 My name is Kayla Jaffe. I'm the
3 06:46:45 diverse learners teacher here at Henry. This is
4 06:46:47 my first year teaching. I graduated college
5 06:46:49 last May.

6 06:46:49 I just wanted to touch on some
7 06:46:51 things. Henry is really -- you know, you have
8 06:46:52 all these kids coming up saying that they're a
9 06:46:52 family.

10 06:46:56 As a first year teacher, I am so
11 06:46:56 supported by all of the staff here. You know,
12 06:46:58 they provide us with PDs and workshops, and I
13 06:47:02 can walk into the principal's office, and
14 06:47:04 they'll tell me, "here's some feedback. Try it.
15 06:47:07 Twist it into your own," and right now I have
16 06:47:09 4th, 5th and 6th graders mostly. My 6th graders
17 06:47:11 started screaming, "one more year of Jaffe."
18 06:47:11 That's saying how excited that they are.

19 06:47:15 You know, this transition from 6th
20 06:47:16 grade to 7th grade, it's hard on them. Yes,
21 06:47:19 they'll go to Roosevelt and they'll have, you
22 06:47:21 know, their IEPs there and everything, but why
23 06:47:25 make them go to another school when they can
24 06:47:25 stay here for two years and we can really get

1 06:47:27 them ready for high school and that transition,
2 06:47:31 especially at that age.

3 06:47:33 You know, it is a huge, huge, huge
4 06:47:34 transition age from, you know, 12 to being in
5 06:47:37 the same school as an 18-year old. It's a lot.
6 06:47:39 And seeing bigger kids around them for the kids
7 06:47:43 who have anxiety, for the kids who have, you
8 06:47:44 know, standard learning disabilities, behavioral
9 06:47:46 disorders, things like that, it's a lot. So if
10 06:47:48 they're able to stay at Henry for 7th and 8th
11 06:47:52 grade, then why not have them here. Thank you.

12 06:47:54 (Applause.)

13 06:48:03 STUDENT MICHELLE VELAZQUEZ: Hi.
14 06:48:03 My name is Michelle. For 7th grade I want it to
15 06:48:09 be here because some people, like, they don't
16 06:48:16 want to move because if the school, the places
17 06:48:21 are far where they don't want to move. I wish
18 06:48:24 they could stay here. Thank you.

19 06:48:26 (Applause.)

20 06:48:33 MS. MARY ANN MUNOZMACIEL-REYNOLDS:
21 06:48:33 Good evening.

22 06:48:34 My name is Mary Ann Munozmaciel. I
23 06:48:37 am the assistant principle here at Patrick Henry
24 06:48:39 Elementary School, and I just wanted to say how

1 06:48:42 very proud I am of all of our students and
2 06:48:43 teachers and families who have actually come up
3 06:48:46 here and voiced what they would like to have
4 06:48:50 happen here at Henry.

5 06:48:52 This is something that we did not
6 06:48:54 ask them to do. They wanted to do this on their
7 06:48:57 own to represent what we're all about.

8 06:49:01 One of our pillars is voicing
9 06:49:03 choice, and so that's one of the things that we
10 06:49:07 definitely try to empower the students to be
11 06:49:13 able to do. It was just a really wonderful
12 06:49:16 thing to see that they are being empowered
13 06:49:20 through our teacher support, through our
14 06:49:22 support, through their parent's supports.

15 06:49:24 Thank you for letting us being able
16 06:49:26 to give our voice, and this is a choice that we
17 06:49:32 at Henry would like to have is 7th and 8th
18 06:49:35 grade. And yes, everything is possible.
19 06:49:37 Nothing is unimaginable.

20 06:49:37 (Applause.)

21 06:49:53 STUDENT VALENTINA ESTRADA: Hello.
22 06:49:54 My name is Valentina Estrada, and I wanted 8th
23 06:50:01 grade, 7th grade to be at this school so my mom
24 06:50:08 doesn't, I mean, get to lose some money for --

1 06:50:17 to buy stuff for us like food, and when I was in
2 06:50:25 summer school, I really liked the teacher, and
3 06:50:32 she really helped me so much.

4 06:50:49 (Applause.)

5 06:50:49 STUDENT VALENTINA ESTRADA

6 06:51:02 (Continuing): Because I want her to be, if she
7 06:51:08 could and if the principal could, to be with me
8 06:51:16 in 7th grade or maybe 8th grade.

9 06:51:21 (Applause.)

10 06:51:32 MS. ISELA LUNA: I'm so proud of
11 06:51:33 you, Valentina.

12 06:51:34 My name is Isela Luna. I was
13 06:51:37 Valentina's summer school teacher, and I'm her
14 06:51:40 teacher now in third grade.

15 06:51:45 I hope that there is a 7th and 8th
16 06:51:48 grade. I want to continue here at Patrick
17 06:51:51 Henry, and I want to keep supporting Valentina
18 06:51:55 and my other students all the way through 8th
19 06:51:56 grade. Since I've been here a lot of families
20 06:51:58 have told me -- have left the school because
21 06:52:02 there wasn't a 7th and 8th grade, and this is
22 06:52:05 something that a lot of families have been
23 06:52:07 asking for and pushing for, and I know that if
24 06:52:12 we have 7th and 8th grade families here, and the

1 06:52:15 students who are already here will definitely
2 06:52:18 stay, and I think that would be a good thing for
3 06:52:22 them because I know, like, as they go on, we can
4 06:52:25 continue to support our students as they go on
5 06:52:28 to the 6th and 7th and 8th grade. Yeah, I hope
6 06:52:33 that this really is a possibility for them.
7 06:52:36 Thank you.

8 06:52:36 (Applause.)

9 06:52:43 MS. ISELA LUNA (Continuing): That
10 06:52:44 was very touching for Valentina, and that shows
11 06:52:46 you the love that Patrick Henry teachers give
12 06:52:51 our students and my kids too as well.

13 06:52:54 One thing I did not mention is the
14 06:52:55 security. The security at Patrick Henry, it's
15 06:52:59 so good. The security knows mostly all the
16 06:53:02 parents. They're aware who the kids go with,
17 06:53:05 and if a student is talking to someone they're
18 06:53:09 not supposed to, the security guard will come up
19 06:53:11 to the parent and let them know.

20 06:53:14 We have incidents where students
21 06:53:18 from other schools come by to look for trouble,
22 06:53:23 and right away the security guards go ahead and
23 06:53:28 they call the other schools that their students
24 06:53:30 come -- what I'm trying to say here is Patrick

1 06:53:32 Henry has control of their students. We are
2 06:53:36 very well -- they're very organized and know our
3 06:53:40 students, their parents. And because of that,
4 06:53:43 you know, it's like family. It's like family.
5 06:53:46 We all know each other. We all look out for
6 06:53:49 each other. So 7th and 8th grade, I don't want
7 06:53:52 to say I want it to be a possibility. I would
8 06:53:54 like for it to be a must. Thank you.

9 06:53:57 (Applause.)

10 06:54:02 STUDENT JULIA RODRIGUEZ: Hello
11 06:54:02 again.

12 06:54:02 One thing I forgot to say about
13 06:54:05 this school is that it became part of my family
14 06:54:08 now, and what's important is that we learn new
15 06:54:13 things each year and we have fun in the school.

16 06:54:18 MR. KNISKERN: Would you tell me
17 06:54:19 your name again?

18 06:54:20 STUDENT JULIA RODRIGUEZ: Julia.

19 06:54:27 MS. ZENAIDA SALINAS (Interpreted):
20 06:54:34 Good evening.

21 06:54:35 My name is Zenaida, and I have two
22 06:54:38 kids here at Patrick Henry, and I feel very
23 06:54:41 nervous, but I'm very happy, and my older kid is
24 06:55:02 also very happy because he's going to be able to

1 06:55:05 stay here with the younger kid, and they're
2 06:55:08 really happy. They want to stay together. And
3 06:55:10 we are really hoping that this becomes a
4 06:55:14 reality.

5 06:55:27 The other kids really get worried a
6 06:55:30 lot about the younger kid, where he is, where
7 06:55:35 he's going to be, and here they all know all the
8 06:55:38 teachers. And we are trusting that we're going
9 06:55:49 to have 7th and 8th grade here. Thank you.

10 06:55:55 (Applause.)

11 06:55:55 STUDENT MARVIN PALACIOS: Hi.

12 06:55:56 My name is Marvin, and I'm a 5th
13 06:55:59 grader from Henry School, and I'm thankful for
14 06:56:03 my teacher, the principal and the assistant
15 06:56:08 principal and the security, and I want 7th grade
16 06:56:12 and 8th grade because I know my friends from
17 06:56:15 preschool, so I want to graduate with them from
18 06:56:20 high school -- from 8th grade. Everything is
19 06:56:25 possible and nothing is unimaginable. Thank
20 06:56:28 you.

21 06:56:28 (Applause.)

22 06:56:31 MS. AVILA: Hi, my name is Dama
23 06:56:33 Avila. My son is Derrek. He was up here a
24 06:56:35 little while ago.

1 06:56:37 One of the things he forgot to
2 06:56:39 mention is he was here since kindergarten too.
3 06:56:39 I have a first grader in Miss Prasko's room.
4 06:56:42 Both my kids have been on A/B honor roll, my
5 06:56:45 daughter first grade, A honor roll.
6 06:56:48 My son has been A/B honor roll
7 06:56:48 since kindergarten, so as much as the staff
8 06:56:52 helps them now, up until 6th, I know and I'm
9 06:56:55 confident that for 7th and 8th grade it will be
10 06:56:58 possible too. Like, it will be nice for him to
11 06:57:01 be 7th/8th grade A/B honor roll for, like, his
12 06:57:03 whole elementary career, so that would be really
13 06:57:06 cool, so that's why I kind of hope we -- you
14 06:57:06 guys approve the 7th and 8th grade here.
15 06:57:09 Also, you know, we've had kids that
16 06:57:11 have been bullied, and the staff is like right
17 06:57:13 on top of it. My son was bullied for a while
18 06:57:16 and they nipped it -- excuse the French thing --
19 06:57:19 they nipped it in the butt, and he's really
20 06:57:20 happy. He wouldn't want to go anywhere else, so
21 06:57:22 hopefully you guys will approve the 7th and 8th
22 06:57:25 grade. Thank you.
23 06:57:25 (Applause.)
24 06:57:30 STUDENT JUSTIN QUINTERO: Hi.

1 06:57:31 My name is Justin, and
2 06:57:33 unfortunately one of my friends hasn't came, so
3 06:57:36 I want to speak for him.

4 06:57:38 I think we should have 7th and 8th
5 06:57:42 grade because I have been here since pre-K
6 06:57:44 school, and I have been with the same
7 06:57:47 classmates. I don't want to start all over
8 06:57:50 again meeting new classmates for 7th and 8th
9 06:57:52 grade. I feel comfortable and safe at Henry
10 06:57:57 School. We are like a family.

11 06:57:58 Another reason we should stay and
12 06:58:01 have 7th and 8th grade is because I don't want
13 06:58:04 to miss my favorite teachers. My favorite
14 06:58:06 teachers care about their students. They help
15 06:58:08 us with our academics and social needs.

16 06:58:12 Once again, we are like family.
17 06:58:13 Thank you.

18 06:58:14 (Applause.)

19 06:58:20 MR. AJ TAYLOR: Hello. My name is
20 06:58:22 AJ Taylor. I'm a new community representative
21 06:58:25 at the Roosevelt LSC. What we can all see here
22 06:58:29 from the brilliant student speakers and alumni
23 06:58:32 speakers is that there's great work being done
24 06:58:33 at this school and at Haugan, but I'd like to

1 06:58:36 add that there's also great work being done at
2 06:58:38 Roosevelt High School under the new leadership
3 06:58:41 of principal Dan Kramer and our chair of our
4 06:58:44 LSC, Nuvia Gramajo. And, you know, again, we
5 06:58:49 can see there's great work being done at this
6 06:58:51 school.

7 06:58:51 I'd like to add that there is a lot
8 06:58:54 of potential in the program at Roosevelt High
9 06:58:57 School. For example, advanced students could be
10 06:59:00 be taking advanced courses in middle school,
11 06:59:02 putting them ahead of track when they get to
12 06:59:05 high school, and then it's possible they could
13 06:59:08 even be taking college courses by the time
14 06:59:12 they're -- excuse me. Very nervous. Big crowd.
15 06:59:16 But they could be taking advanced courses when
16 06:59:18 they're in high school and getting ahead of
17 06:59:20 track for college.

18 06:59:21 I would like to say that I hope
19 06:59:25 that we can build a strong relationship between
20 06:59:27 our LSC at Roosevelt and the other Albany Park
21 06:59:32 LSCs here at Haugan, Henry and other schools.
22 06:59:36 I'd like to work together when things like this
23 06:59:38 come up. So I do like -- I look forward to
24 06:59:42 meeting any LSC representatives at any nearby

1 06:59:46 schools. Please introduce yourself. I'll try
2 06:59:48 to find you as well. Thank you.

3 06:59:50 (Applause.)

4 07:00:01 STUDENT PAOLA AYALA (Interpreted):

5 07:00:20 Hello, my name is Paola, and I'm seven years
6 07:00:22 old, and I want to stay in the same school as my
7 07:00:25 brother because my brother, he always helps me
8 07:00:28 with my homework, and it seems like he always
9 07:00:31 knows what to do, and it's good for our family,
10 07:00:34 so thank you.

11 07:00:34 STUDENT LEO RAMOS: Good evening.

12 07:00:37 My name is Leo, and I'm a 6th grade student at
13 07:00:41 Henry School.

14 07:00:41 I think we should have 7th and 8th
15 07:00:44 grade here because I have been here since
16 07:00:47 preschool, and I have been here with the same
17 07:00:50 classmates. I don't want to have to start all
18 07:00:54 over again meeting new classmates in 7th and 8th
19 07:00:57 grade. I feel comfortable and safe at Henry
20 07:00:57 school, and we are like family.

21 07:01:00 Another reason we should have 7th
22 07:01:01 and 8th grade, because I don't want to miss my
23 07:01:05 favorite teachers. My favorite teachers care
24 07:01:08 about their students. They help us with our

1 07:01:10 academics and social needs.

2 07:01:12 Once again, we are like family. I

3 07:01:15 know what I said may not be good enough reasons

4 07:01:17 for you, but I am speaking with all sincerity.

5 07:01:24 We would be very grateful to have the

6 07:01:27 opportunity to study 7th and 8th grade in a

7 07:01:30 great school with a great teacher and great

8 07:01:33 students. Thank you for listening. Appreciate

9 07:01:35 your time.

10 07:01:36 (Applause.)

11 07:01:48 MS. LISA GARNER: My name is Lisa

12 07:01:49 Garner. I'm a special education teacher here at

13 07:01:53 Patrick Henry.

14 07:01:54 These girls in 7th grade, who know

15 07:01:58 how much I hate speaking in front of a big group

16 07:02:01 of people, have decided to be my support. And I

17 07:02:07 was a former teacher at Marshall Middle School,

18 07:02:10 and I know the benefits of having a group of

19 07:02:13 students who are in a developmental age that are

20 07:02:17 more contributing members to their community in

21 07:02:21 a middle-school level, and we also would love to

22 07:02:25 consider our Girls on the Run middle school

23 07:02:28 program here at Patrick Henry as they start to

24 07:02:29 get older and learn a girls' curriculum that

1 07:02:33 helps them grow and develop as young women.

2 07:02:37 Thank you.

3 07:02:39 (Applause.)

4 07:02:47 MR. KNISKERN: Are there any other

5 07:02:48 registered speakers? Any other registered

6 07:03:03 speakers or those who would like to speak again?

7 07:03:12 MS. MAJSTOROVIC: I do want to let

8 07:03:14 you know we will stay here until 8 o'clock if

9 07:03:17 somebody feels like they want to speak, but if

10 07:03:19 you feel like you're done, you are welcome to go

11 07:03:23 home, but we will be staying here until

12 07:03:26 8 o'clock.

13 07:03:26 (Interpreted.)

14 07:04:32 THE INTERPRETER: Just

15 07:04:32 interpreting, repeating back what was just said,

16 07:04:34 that you are welcome to stay here until 8 p.m.

17 07:04:38 We have to stay here, and we will

18 07:04:39 stay here until 8:00 p.m. but you don't have to

19 07:04:43 feel that you should have to stay here. You're

20 07:04:43 welcome to return home.

21 07:27:31 (Pause in comments.)

22 07:59:29 MS. MAJSTOROVIC: Okay. So I'd

23 07:59:37 like to thank everybody for coming. I thank you

24 07:59:40 to all of those who spoke. And please remember

1 07:59:43 if you have any additional questions or comments
2 07:59:45 to submit them either at the table above or at
3 07:59:47 the transitions@cps.edu e-mail address, and we
4 07:59:52 are going to close out the meeting. And have a
5 07:59:54 good rest of your night.

6 08:00:05 (Interpreted.)

7 (Ending time noted: 8:00 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

OF

CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

I, CYNTHIA J. CONFORTI, a Certified
Shorthand Reporter of the State of Illinois, and
Notary Public in County of Cook, do hereby
certify that I reported in shorthand the
proceedings had at the hearing aforesaid, and
that the foregoing is a true, complete and
correct transcript of the proceedings of said
hearing as appears from my stenographic notes so
taken and transcribed under my personal
direction.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do hereunto
set my hand at Chicago, Illinois, this 19th day
of January, 2018.

CYNTHIA J. CONFORTI, CSR, CRR
License No. 084-003064

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